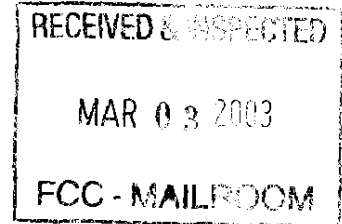




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February 25, 2003

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. - Portals
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 02-384 - Application of Verizon Maryland Inc. For authorization to
Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in the State of Maryland

Dear Ms. Salas:

On Behalf of the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, we urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve Verizon's recently filed application to offer long distance service in Maryland. This letter is in addition to our letter of support to the Public Service Commission of Maryland. We are eager to join the 12 other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states that are enjoying the benefits of full telecom competition as a result of Verizon's entry into the long distance market.

Nationally, the consistent findings are that, in those states where the incumbent local telephone company is offering long distance service, competition is flourishing and local and long distance telephone service consumers are savings on their monthly telephone bills. A study released in June 2002 by the Telecommunications Research and Action Council (TRAC) estimated that "Maryland residential customers could save more than \$72 million on long distance service one year after Verizon's entry into the long distance service one year after Verizon's entry into the long distance market."

In our state, Verizon's bid is supported by community, business, education and political leaders. Verizon has met all the requirements to gain the Commission's approval of the company's long distance application. Both the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) have recommended that the FCC approve Verizon's application.

We urge the FCC to concur so that Maryland, like many states nationally, can enjoy robust telephone competition and its benefits. Such action will stimulate our state's economy and allow our citizens the opportunity for reductions in local and long distance rates.

Sincerely,


Terry Slade Young
President

TSY/III

Handwritten signature, possibly 'ATL'.

Chamber Sponsors...Comcast Cablevision, LCG Technologies Corp , and MIE Properties, Inc.